

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 63, 67, 97, 106, 108-110, 112, and 113 remain pending. Claim 60 has been amended. Claim 111 has been cancelled. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Prior claims 60, 61, 109, 112, and 114 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102b as allegedly being anticipated by French Patent No. 2724554 in the name of Voydeville Gilles (hereinafter "Voydeville"). Claims 62-66, 97, 106, 108, 110, 113, 117, and 118 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103a as allegedly being unpatentable over Voydeville.

To expedite allowance of this application (rather than for reasons of patentability under the Patent statutes or rules), applicants have amended independent claim 60 to recite the elements of prior dependent claim 111. As the examiner previously indicated that claim 111 defines patentable subject matter, and solely objected to claim 111 as depending from a non-allowed base claim, applicants respectfully submit that claim 60 is now in condition for allowance. As all other pending claims now depend from allowable claim 60, applicants respectfully request that this application be allowed to issue.

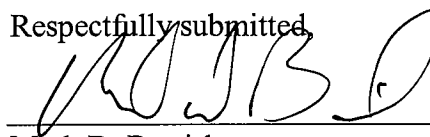
Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the prior claims in a subsequent related application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark D. Barrish
Reg. No. 36,443

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400 / Fax: 415-576-0300
MDB:rr/nap
61102502 v1